

Name:

Date:

Class:

Dramatic Scene Draft #1 Checklist

Directions: Use the checklist below as a guide for your first draft of your dramatic scene. Go through the checklist to make sure you are following the major criteria for the scene.

- ☐ You begin your scene with **descriptive stage directions** that show the reader:
 - ☐ *What is on the stage (what does the stage look like, including the mood on the stage);*
 - ☐ *Who is on the stage;*
 - ☐ *What the people on stage are doing when the curtains rise.*
- ☐ Your scene builds the tension slowly -- you do not jump right into the major action or conflict
- ☐ Your scene includes *stage directions* throughout, so we know the specific actions of the characters on stage, the characters' tones of voice speaking, and any other non-spoken behaviors the characters should exhibit (gestures, facial expressions, etc.).
- ☐ The scene should *move the story forward* -- something should happen in the scene that complicates the conflict or helps resolve it.
- ☐ The scene should have a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- ☐ The stakes should be high in the story (think about *ARITS* -- Ruth finds out she is pregnant at a time when the family is at its most chaotic and desperate).
- ☐ Your grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization are accurate.
- ☐ You formatted the scene correctly, including:
 - ☐ Skipping lines between each person's dialogue;
 - ☐ Stage directions unrelated to dialogue are written on a line by themselves;
 - ☐ Stage directions are written in parentheses and (if you want) *italics*.